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Faunce rezoning sent back to city staff - again

ELIZABETH STEWART

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By vote of 6-1 the Kings Mountain City Council Monday night continued public hearing and sent the Faunce rezoning request back to city staff to continue working with the developer on his site plan.

Councilman Tommy Hawkins, Ward 3, voted "no." He said after the meeting that it's time council takes action. "This has been going on too long," said Hawkins.

Four members of the West End Neighborhood Association - Helen Hatch, Pucky Lewis Nance, Melvin Ware and Lewis Nance - spoke in opposition to the request

by David Faunce of Faunce Properties to rezone his property at 813 W. King Street, formerly 814 W. Mountain St. from RS-8 to Conditional Use Office.

Four of the seven members of city council raised questions during an hour of discussion, their obvious concerns focusing on the proposed size of the building that Faunce is looking at for his .7 acre property, now the home of a child day care center which wraps around three streets at the west entrance to the city - West Mountain, King and Phifer Road.

"Would you be willing to change the size of the building, I have a problem with that?" asked

Mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon.

Faunce said that he has "wrestled with two stories versus one story but it has to do with parking places." He added that he could consider a 6,500 square foot one story building if other things could be eliminated, shingles on the roof, etc.

"I think there could be a resolution if you tweet a couple of things," said Gordon, adding "I think we are the closest to a compromise than we've been in a long time."

Councilman Mike Butler asked Faunce if he would reduce the hours of operation, also a major concern since the Faunce property adjoins a residential neighborhood. Faunce said he wants whatever business is located there to be open 24/7. Neighborhood residents are suggesting 7 a.m.-9 p.m. "I do not agree to changing the hours of operation," he said, adding that buffering would segregate his property from Mountain Street as well as additional fencing. Responding to questions of commissioners, he said that all four sides of the proposed building would be 90% stone or brick construction. "A lot of uses



David Faunce addressed the council in regard to his request for rezoning his property located at 813 W. King Street.

Photos by LIB STEWART



Helen Hatch was one member of the West End Neighborhood Assoc. that spoke in opposition to the request for rezoning.

have already been eliminated and the office use I am proposing is the least combative," added Faunce.

"Are you just hoping for a tenant or do you have one?" asked councilman Dean Spears. Faunce said the zoning change had to come first. A retired building contractor, Spears also questioned the size of the building as presented on the site plan.

Councilman Keith Miller asked city planning director Steve Killian to research the question of 24-7 hours of operation of similar busi-

nesses in town. "Does this need to be tweaked?," he asked Miller made the motion to direct the rezoning matter back to staff for further work with the developer. Miller said he could see positive progress.

While the latest site plan includes certain items that are beneficial and serve to soften the transition between the West End Neighborhood and commercial use, the four members of the

See FAUNCE, 6A

Serving of beer and wine approved at 3 city properties

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By 5-2 City Council Monday night authorized the consumption of wine and malt beverages on three city properties - the old railroad depot, the old US Post office building and the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center.

Their action amends Section 130-10 of a city ordinance in effect since 1988 which had prohibited any kind of consumption of alcoholic beverages on city property.

In a second motion, which passed unanimously, the board stipulated that the Patrick Center staff, before renting that facility for a social function, check for proper insurance of the person renting the property because he/she would have the legal liabilities, not the city. Southern Arts Society and Kings Mountain Historical Museum lease both the other properties and non-profits are adequately insured.

Councilmen Mike Butler of

Ward II and Keith Miller, Ward 5, voted against the amendment. Approving were mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon, Ward 4, Howard Shipp, Ward I, Tommy Hawkins, Ward 3, and at large commissioners Rick Moore and Dean Spears.

"I vote No," said councilman Butler before Mayor Rick Murphy called for the official votes tabulated electronically on a wall board in Council Chambers at city hall.

City attorney Mickey Corry said that beer and wine could be served, not sold, at only the three properties. The tenant, or lessee, must first apply for the appropriate permits issued by the N. C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, the permits provided to the City of Kings Mountain prior to the event occurring for which the beverages are to be served.

The amended ordinance allows the serving of beer/wine at special events, no mixed drinks, Corry pointed out. He said the inquiry to

See ORDINANCE, 6A

County approves grant

The drive for capital funds for expansion of the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center got a boost from Cleveland County Commissioners last Tuesday.

By unanimous vote, commissioners approved a \$150,000 donation to be paid over a four year period, adding that they welcomed a return visit from campaign leaders as progress gets underway.

Saying the county would be in a budget crunch to donate the requested \$300,000, commissioner Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by commissioner Jason Falls, both of Kings Mountain, to make the grant and come back at the end of the campaign, if needed, to make another request for funds.

"The county needs to scale back at this time," said Falls.

KMPD investigating stabbing death

Octavius Leon Thomas, 26, 936 Shannon Bradley Road, Gastonia, died last Wednesday, March 20, from a stab wound that police say he got while horse playing with knives.

Kings Mountain Police were called at 26 minutes after midnight

"in reference to a black male lying in the front yard of 1106 Groves Street and unresponsive." According to Det. Sgt. C. N. Moore the officers began CPR and the man was transported to Gaston Memorial Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

According to Moore

officers learned during preliminary investigation that two black males at the residence were horse playing with knives at which time Thomas received a fatal wound.

Thomas was reportedly visiting his girlfriend at the residence and the horse playing incident allegedly involved Thomas

and his girlfriend's teenage son.

No arrests have been made and the incident remains under investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Sgt. C. N. Moore at the Kings Mountain Police Department, 704-734-0444.



Gospel groups at Music Fest Fri., April 12

The Kingsmen Quartet headlines the Gospel Friday night program for Music Fest 2013 on April 12. Inducted into the southern gospel music hall of fame and the Christian Music Hall of Fame, the Kingsmen started off 2012 with the top song on the southern gospel charts, "That's all I need".

Men Standing For Christ - like the Kingsmen - was formed in the 1950's and continues the tradition of black quartet singing. Voices rise

in rich four-part harmony, accompanied from time to time by keyboard.

Sharp-eared listeners will hear the roots of doo-wop and falsetto from smooth-voiced vocalists ranging in age from mid-twenties to mid-seventies.

Darin and Brooke Aldridge will bring a style of country/bluegrass gospel that has been described as "Contemporary traditional". They have been nominated for national

and international music awards including Best Gospel Song and Best Gospel Group.

Tickets for the Friday night show are \$20, and are available at the Joy box office at 704-730-9408, the Kings Mountain Herald office at 704-739-7496, or on-line www.TicketsNC.com. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. and is sponsored by Summit Place of Kings Mountain and the Kings Mountain Herald.



Holy Week is underway

A cross draped in purple is a symbol of Holy Week which began for Christians on Sunday. This cross is outside Central United Methodist Church in Kings Mountain.

Photo by LIB STEWART

For Christians, the Holy Week that began Sunday with Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem will end on Good Friday with His public execution by the Romans. Easter Sunday is the highlight of the Christian life. Because He lives, that is the Hope Easter brings.

Kings Mountain citizens at several churches will

See SERVICES, 3A

City to host Easter Egg Hunt Saturday

The City of Kings Mountain will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30 at 10 a.m. at the Children's Playground at the YMCA on Highway 161 (Cleveland Avenue).

Activities will include a petting zoo, games, storytelling, baby bunnies and peeps, and activities for the children. For the egg hunt, one gold egg will be mixed in with the other eggs in each age category. Each child that finds the golden egg will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate from "Toys R' Us". The Easter Bunny will arrive by fire truck to begin the egg hunt. Mauney Memorial Library, the YMCA and Cleveland County

See live bunnies at the petting zoo!



See EASTER, 3A



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